

# WINEPRESS

## NEWSLETTER

NAPA VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

*NVGS Library* 707-252-2252  
1701 Menlo Avenue, Napa, CA 94558-4725

Open Wednesdays 10-1, and 1st & 3rd Saturdays 10-1,  
and by appointment.

Research requests. [research@napagensoc.org](mailto:research@napagensoc.org)

Email: [info@napagensoc.org](mailto:info@napagensoc.org)

Web: [www.napagensoc.org](http://www.napagensoc.org)

Volume 50

No.5

Sept. Oct. 2022

### Elected Officers

President: Sandra Hoover  
[president@napagensoc.org](mailto:president@napagensoc.org)

V. Presidents:  
Mark & Sally Perkins  
[vicepresident@napagensoc.org](mailto:vicepresident@napagensoc.org)

Secretary: Jennifer Roodzant  
[secretary@napagensoc.org](mailto:secretary@napagensoc.org)

Treasurer: Jeanine Layland  
[treasurer@napagensoc.org](mailto:treasurer@napagensoc.org)

### Directors:

Computers and Web:  
Ruth Jenkins-McIntire  
[webmaster@napagensoc.org](mailto:webmaster@napagensoc.org)

Librarian: Sandra Hoover  
[librarian@napagensoc.org](mailto:librarian@napagensoc.org)

Membership:  
Jeanine Layland  
[info@napagensoc.org](mailto:info@napagensoc.org)

Publications: Sue Ziemski  
[publications@napagensoc.org](mailto:publications@napagensoc.org)

### Committees:

Programs: Michaele Drew  
[programs@napagensoc.org](mailto:programs@napagensoc.org)

Publicity: Sally Perkins  
[publicity@napagensoc.org](mailto:publicity@napagensoc.org)

Research: Mary Herzog  
[research@napagensoc.org](mailto:research@napagensoc.org)

### Mission Statement

*The Napa Valley Genealogical Society is dedicated to the promotion of genealogical, historical, and biographical research, and the preservation of family history. The society serves as a medium to share knowledge through workshops and educational programs.*

### A MESSAGE FROM YOUR BOARD

**The Library hours: Open every Wednesday from 10-1 and on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays from 10-1.**  
**Staff Personal can assist you with your research.**

### UPDATED MASK GUIDELINES

**"In keeping with current county and state guidelines, masking inside the library is no longer required. Masking for unvaccinated persons is strongly recommended."**

### What's inside this issue:

- 2 - Calendar of Events  
Upcoming Events
- 3 - New Members  
Membership Cards  
Member Benefits
- 4 - Mary's Book Corner  
Upcoming Events Continued
- 5 - "NOW YOU KNOW"  
*Article by member Ruth Jenkins-McIntire*  
*"It can take a Community to Finding a Village"*
- 6- Continued from pg. 5
- 7- NVGS presents - "Learning more about American Female Ancestors Prior to 1850"
- 8- "SCGS" Presents- "Researching Criminal Ancestors"
- 9- NVGS presents- "Planning a Genealogical Road Trip"

***"Learning more about  
American  
Female Ancestors  
Prior to 1850"***

***[www.napagensoc.org](http://www.napagensoc.org)***

**Sept. 15, 2022**

**1pm**

**NVGS**

**Virtual Program**

## NAPA VALLEY GENEALOGY SOCIETY CALENDAR of EVENTS

### Sept. 2022

Sept. 5, (1st Mon) **Round Table Discussion Group: "Traditional Family Lore"** 11:00am  
Zoom

Sept. (Every Wed) **Library Committee Work Party. 10am to 1pm**

Sept. (2nd + 4th Tue) **Family History Writing Group**, noon, at NVGS Library.

Sept. 9, (2nd Fri) **Board Meeting**, 10:30am. At the Library.

Sept. 15, (3rd Thurs) **Program: "Learning more about Female Ancestors Prior to 1850"**  
Zoom Meeting, 1:00 pm - "Brief announcements and discussion precede presentation"

### Oct. 2022

Oct. 3, (1st Mon) **Round Table Discussion Group: "Shadowy Ancestry Discoveries"**  
11:00am Zoom

Oct. (Every Wed) **Library Committee Work Party. 10am to 1pm**

Oct. 14, (2nd Fri) **Board Meeting**, 10:30am. At the Library.

Oct. (2nd + 4th Tue) **Family History Writing Group**, noon, at NVGS Library.

Oct. 20, (3rd Thurs) **Program: "Hitting the Road: Planning a Genealogy Road Trip"**  
Zoom Meeting, 1:00 pm - Brief announcements and discussion precede presentation"

**WinePress deadline**, Articles to Editor Sandra Hoover, due 26th of each month,

E-mail articles to: [info@napagensoc.org](mailto:info@napagensoc.org) In subject line state: Newsletter item.

## UPCOMING EVENTS 2022

**California Genealogical Society** presents on, **Tuesday, September 13, 2022 7pm-8 pm**  
**"Organize Like an Archivist: Taming Genealogy Records and Research."** Nancy Loe offers professional tips to put your family history research in order. Using the same principles as professional archivists, learn simple and effective strategies to organize and link your digital files and paper records. (Note: this class is presented via Zoom, but will not be recorded.) Go to CGS [California Ancestors](#) to register.

### **A Reminder**

Did you miss our speaker last month? If so, you may view the recording now on our new website, as you sign in as a member. [napagensoc.org/Program-Videos](http://napagensoc.org/Program-Videos)

These recordings will be available for only a limited time.



## Welcome New Members

Name

Surname Searches

Cathryn Mathews

None Listed

Carol Schneider-Bourgerie

None Listed

### MEMBERS MAY SCHEDULE A LIBRARY ORIENTATION

Email to: [research@napagensoc.org](mailto:research@napagensoc.org) or call 707-252-2252

### Membership Cards

If you would like to print your membership card,  
follow these steps:

1. Put card stock or a heavy sheet of paper in your printer.
2. Log in to the website. ([napagensoc.org](http://napagensoc.org))
3. Click on your name (right hand upper corner) to go to your profile.
4. Click on the **Membership Tab**.
5. Click on the **Printable PDF**. It will download to your download folder.
6. Print and cut it out – there will be two printed, one with square corners and one with rounder corners.

### MEMBER BENEFITS - TOURS & SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

New members (or any member wishing a refresher) can request a **library tour** with an experienced staff member. Submit tour requests by email - [info@napagensoc.org](mailto:info@napagensoc.org) - or by leaving a message on the library phone, 707-252-2252.

The **Writing Group** has resumed meeting at the library on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays from 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm. See [napagensoc.org](http://napagensoc.org) and click Meetings and Interest Groups for details.

The **Roundtable Discussion Group** meets monthly via Zoom on the first Monday at 11:00 am. NVGS volunteers lead informal discussions on genealogy topics of interest.

Special Interest Groups are open to NVGS members only.

## Mary's Book Corner



### *"A Broken Tree"*

By Stephen F. Anderson

A Broken Tree: How DNA Exposed a Family's Secrets, by Stephen F Anderson is an extremely apt title. I have read dozens of books on the subject but I found this one to be the most thrilling and exciting. It starts with bits of stories shared among adult siblings with one filling out the blanks in another's story. From there it leads to the use of early DNA techniques with frustrating results, clear through to the present when there are so many more resources to really understand what the testing was telling them. The author is also very sensitive to the emotions involved with all the various people. I read it in one sitting.

*Happy reading, Mary*

## UPCOMING EVENTS continued 2022



### Vallejo-Benicia Genealogy Society

Thursday November 3, 2022. Cemetery Records  
Presented by Glenda Gardner Lloyd.  
1:30 pm Virtual via zoom.

Glenda Gardner Lloyd is a fourth generation Californian. She grew up on a cattle ranch in northeastern California and attended a one-room country school. She received her BA from the University of California, Santa Barbara and her MA from CSU Sacramento. She taught elementary school and worked as a reading specialist for thirty-eight years. Glenda helped organize and served as the first president of Root Cellar, Sacramento Genealogical Society. She has taught genealogy classes through San Juan Adult Education for the past 25 years. She participates in local seminars for the California State Archives, the Regional Family History Center, the Sacramento City Library, and does workshops for many local societies. She has lectured for the Salt Lake Institute. Genealogy is her hobby and her passion which she hopes to share with all of you.

*Non-Members: If you are interested in attending, please send an e-mail to [President@gsvb.org](mailto:President@gsvb.org) to request a Zoom invitation. The time is 1:30 PM PDT*

The Ohio Genealogical Society holds its annual conference in the spring of each year. It is one of the largest state conferences that draws attendees from around the globe. Visit the site at [www.OGS.org](http://www.OGS.org) for information.

## NOW YOU KNOW

### Immigrant vs. Emigrant

There is very little difference between *immigrant* and *emigrant* semantically; both words refer to a person who leaves one country to move to another (generally for a permanent or significant stay). The main difference is that *immigrant* is used in reference to the country moved *to*, and *emigrant* is used in reference to the country moved *from*. There are several ways to remember how to distinguish between these words: people are *emigrants* when they leave their country of origin, and *immigrants* when they arrive at their destination., or an *emigrant* is given an additional *M* when moving to a new country.

### AN ARTICLE IN THE “*Der Blumenbaum Journal*” July - October 2022 issue

By Member - Ruth Jenkins-McIntire

### *It Can Take a Community to Find a Village*

I finally found the German town of origin for Christina Wolff, the mother of my maternal grandfather, Ed Mills. I have been searching since 1979!

When I first started looking for information about Chris-

tina, I knew only a little about her. My mother had a family sheet for Christina’s parents, Johann and Maria Wolff, which listed the names and ages of some of their children.

My grandfather had not been in close contact with his maternal relatives after his mother died in 1908. He was raised in Omaha, Nebraska, but he ran away from home when he was fourteen, eventually living in Tennessee, and then California and Arizona. Grandpa died in a plane accident in 1954 when I was twelve.

I knew that Christina was born in Germany and immigrated to the United States as a child with her parents. With the information we had, my cousin Janet located a potential match in the 1880 census. They were listed as John and Mary Walf (similar to Johann and Maria Wolff) with children Lena 7, Christina 5, Mary 3, and George 2. They lived in Galena, Illinois, a mining community with many German immigrants. The parents and two older girls had been born in Germany and the two younger children were born in Illinois.

In the 1900 census, they were no longer living in Illinois.



We found them instead in Douglas township, Nebraska.

They were listed with children John 19, Peter 16, Frank 14, Annie 11, Harry 8, Clara 6, and Laura 4. Johann gave 1876 as the year he immigrated and also stated that he was naturalized. Their last child, Laura, was born in Nebraska in 1896. The other children were born in Illinois.

Although none of the names matched the children in the 1880 census, they did match the chart that my Mom had. Douglas Township is also only fifty miles from Omaha, where my grandfather was born, so this puts them in the right area. We also found Lena and Christina in the 1900 census. They had each married and were listed with their husbands and children. Lena appeared right under her parents on the same page.

Christina was living in Omaha, Nebraska. She and my great grandfather, William Mills, were listed with three children. The census taker listed 7 June as the day he took their information and at that time Christina would have been pregnant with my grandfather, as he was born later that year on 30 November.

Over the years I slowly accumulated information. One year while visiting my Uncle Larry Mills, he brought out the Mills bible that had belonged to my great grandparents. In the middle of the bible, I found the marriage date of William Mills and Christina Wolff: 19 October 1893, in South Omaha, Nebraska.

That brought such joy!



*William E. And Christina (Wolff) Mills and their children. This would have been taken a few years after 1900 as in that census only three children were listed.*

Our Napa Valley Genealogy library has the series Germans To America. In it I found a Johann and Maria Wolff who traveled on the ship Neckar from Bremen, Germany, to New York, arriving on 15 September 1875. However, the only child listed with them was a three-month old male child named Anthon. Lena and Christina were nowhere to be found. Lena would have been about two, and Christina less than a year old. I wanted them to be my Wolff family, but it seemed unlikely!

My husband and I took a trip to Nebraska in 2004 and found the cemetery in Omaha where Christina's parents were buried. The Saint Mary Magdalene cemetery records gave some information that I did not have. Maria Wolff's maiden name was Hines. I also learned their dates of death, and that the family was from Westphalia. I was getting closer. I at least knew something more specific than "Germany." I signed up for a seminar given by the Sacramento German Genealogy Society. I was determined to try to locate the hometown of the Wolff's.

I learned a bit more about German research, picked up a couple of books on Westphalia, and got the name of a German research specialist at the LDS library in Salt Lake City.

One day I happened to be looking online at my family tree on familysearch.org. Someone had attached a set of parents, Peter Heintz and Ernestina Rosina Willmer, to Christina's mother, Maria Hines Wolff. (Heintz sounds similar to

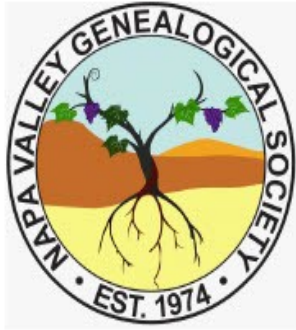
Hines.)

I was skeptical about the value of this information. I noticed the name of the person who had added this, Dan White. I decided to write and ask him how he came to connect this couple to Maria. Meanwhile, I tentatively put Peter Heintz in as Maria's father on the tree that I have on Ancestry. That shaking leaf hint directed me to ten other trees! Nine of the trees had Peter having two daughters. One tree listed three daughters, one of them being Maria, and that tree was put up by Dan White. He had the family living in Galena, Illinois, which was consistent with the information I had. One of his daughters was also named Christina, and there were several other similarities that led me to think that Dan really had the right family. There was even an obituary for Peter listing three daughters who survived him. One was named Mrs. Wold, which could have been Wolff. Another document I found on his tree was the same passenger list I had noted earlier in the Germans to America series. Now I noticed details I had missed earlier. Below the names of Johann and Maria Wolff were the names of Peter Heintz, 50, Ernestina 45, Anna 8, Christina 5, and another family, Johann Willmer 45, Dina 38, Gertrude 16, Bertha 9, and Helena 2 ½. Now that I knew that Ernestina's maiden name was Willmer, Johann was obviously a relative of hers. The men were listed as miners on the passenger manifest, which is consistent with the 1880 census, in which they were living in a mining community in Illinois. But what about the two little girls in the Wolff family?

While waiting to see if Dan would respond to my email, I decided to check my DNA matches on Ancestry.com for anyone who descended from Peter Heintz. To my delight, I did find someone who descended from Peter and we matched as fourth cousins. This cousin descended from Peter's daughter, Anna. I was later to learn that Dan was also descended from Anna.

The next morning I received a reply from Dan White,

.....*To be continued in the next issue of NVGS*  
 .....*Newsletter. (Nov/Dec 2022 issue)*



*Napa Valley Genealogical Society*  
*Presents:*

## **Learning More about American Female Ancestors Prior to 1850**

Zoom talk by Gena Philibert-Ortega, MA

**September 15, 2022 - 1:00 pm**

(Brief business meeting precedes presentation)

One of the stumbling blocks for family historians is researching before 1850 when the US Census names only the heads of households. Laws affecting women, such as coverture, create additional barriers to finding female ancestors. Using case studies, we will examine how to approach this research and what records can contribute to your success.



**Guest Registration:** Click "Learning More About Female Ancestors" on the home page of [napagensoc.org](http://napagensoc.org). Click "Register." Last day to register is Sept. 14.

**Members** of the Society will receive a Zoom link and do not need to register.

Gena Philibert-Ortega is an author, researcher, and instructor focusing on genealogy and social and women's history. She holds Master's degrees in Interdisciplinary Studies and Religion. Her published works include two books and numerous articles. Gena is the editor of the Utah Genealogical Association's magazine, *Crossroads*, and her writing can be found on various blogs.

Saturday, September 17, 2022

The Sonoma County Genealogical Society

presents

Ron Arons



## Researching Criminal Ancestors

In this presentation, Ron demonstrates how to research black sheep ancestors, those relatives who might be difficult to research for any one of a number of different reasons.

Ron discusses using “standard” genealogical records (census, vital records, city directories, etc.), but also other specific records available only for those who broke the law or came close to doing so. Specific recommendations will be given regarding the methodology of researching such characters.

Ron Arons has researched his roots back to England, Poland, Lithuania, Ukraine, Romania, and Lithuania. He has given 500+ presentations across the country and internationally on researching criminals, methodology, and technology. He won a NY State Hackman Research Grant to continue his investigation of Jewish criminals in New York and appeared on the PBS TV series *The Jewish Americans*. He is the author of three books which are available for purchase on his website: [www.RonArons.com](http://www.RonArons.com). Ron earned degrees from Princeton and the University of Chicago.

Meeting begins at noon; Presentation at 1:00 p.m. via ZOOM.

**REGISTER at Sonoma County Genealogical Society**

Registration will close at noon the day before the presentation





Napa Valley Genealogical Society  
Presents:

## Hitting the Road: Planning a Genealogy Road Trip

Zoom talk by Kathy Nielsen

**October 20, 2022 - 1:00 pm**

(Brief business meeting precedes presentation)

Join Kathy Nielsen as she shares successes and challenges in organizing a genealogy road trip. Travel with her overseas and to locations within the United States and Canada. She will make suggestions on how to begin planning, whom to contact and what to see. Sometimes the planning is as much fun as the actual trip!



Kathy Nielsen is a reference librarian in the California History Room at Monterey Public Library. She has masters degrees in History & Library Science. Kathy is a popular genealogy speaker on the Monterey Peninsula, combining her skills as an historian, a storyteller, and a librarian with her love for travel to make family histories come alive.

**Guest Registration:** Go to [napagensoc.org](http://napagensoc.org), click "Hitting the Road" on the home page and "Register." Registration ends October 19.

**Society Members** will receive a Zoom link and do not need to register.